

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-03 EUR-08 AF-04 SSO-00 NSC-05

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-10

PA-01 PRS-01 H-01 PM-03 SP-02 OMB-01 /066 W

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O R 211915Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6278

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 RABAT 4058

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS SP AG MR

SUBJECT: KING'S AUGUST 20 SAHARA SPEECH

1. SUMMARY: IN MAJOR POLICY SPEECH ON SAHARA, KING VOWS
RECUPERATION OF SAHARA BY END OF YEAR, BY FORCE OF ARMS IF
NECESSARY. WARNS NEIGHBORS AND APPEALS FOR ARAB SUPPORT.
PROMISES NO ACTION UNTIL ISSUANCE OPINION OF ICJ. END SUMMARY.

2. KING HASSAN DELIVERED MAJOR POLICY STATEMENT ON SAHARA IN
ADDRESS TO NATION ON AUGUST 20, TWENTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF
FRENCH DEPORTATION OF HIS FATHER. SPEECH IS STRONGEST
ENUNCIATION YET OF KING'S DETERMINATION TO "RECOVER" SAHARA.
ALTHOUGH MANY OF HIS POINTS HAVE BEEN MADE BEFORE, HIS
REMARKS ON "OTHER COUNTRIES" AND "DEADLINE" FOR RESOLUTION, ARE
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NEW. ESSENTIAL POINTS FOLLOW:

A. KING STILL WANTS TO RECOVER SAHARA BY PEACEFUL AND LEGAL MEANS, BUT WILL TAKE UP ARMS IF NECESSARY. IN TWO OR 2 1/2 MONTHS, AFTER ICJ OPINION, AND UN "PRONOUNCEMENT", MOROCCO WILL KNOW WHETHER "WE WILL ENTER OUR SAHARA BY PEACEFUL OR BY NON-PEACEFUL MEANS...AND WHEN THE TIME COMES DEAR PEOPLE AND TIME KNOCKS IT IS OBLIGATORY ON EACH PERSON TO RECOGNIZE THE TRUTH AND READY HIMSELF TO GO TO THE FIELD. AT THAT TIME I WILL SPEAK TO YOU, NOT IN THESE CLOTHES, BUT IN MILITARY UNIFORM, SO THAT I WILL BE AT THE HEAD OF ALL WHO WISH TO FIGHT AND SACRIFICE THEMSELVES FOR THEIR SOIL AND NATION."

B. UNTIL THEN, KING WILL AVOID CREATING A "DISTURBED CLIMATE" WHICH COULD BE SEEN AS AN ATTEMPT TO PRESSURE THE COURT FOR A FAVORABLE DECISION.

C. IN ANY CASE, MOROCCO'S RENDEZVOUS WITH THE SAHARA WILL NOT BE LEFT TO CHANCE, BUT WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. "WE WILL ENTER HOLY AND UNSCATHED, HEADS SHAVEN AND HAIR SHORT, WITHOUT FEAR."

D. KING SAID THAT INTERNAL SACRIFICE MUST BE MATCHED BY "WILLINGNESS TO TAKE DECISIVE ATTITUDE WITH REGARD TO OTHER COUNTRIES." MOROCCO HAS DONE ALL IT CAN, FINANCIALLY AND MILITARILY, TO SUPPORT CAUSES IN AFRICA AND ASIA AND MUST NOW BE READY TO REVISE ITS ATTITUDE TOWARDS EACH STATE, EVEN RADICALLY, AND "NO MATTER HOW PAINFULLY", IF THEY DO NOT FURNISH THE SUPPORT MOROCCO HAS A RIGHT TO EXPECT. "THE SAHARA, IS, FOR MOROCCO, THE EQUIVALENT OF THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE."

E. THE TRUE FRIENDS -- AND BLOOD BROTHERS -- OF MOROCCO, KING SAID, ARE THOSE WHO DO NOT GO BACK ON THEIR COMMITMENTS EACH TIME THEY SEE THEIR INTERESTS TO LIE ELSEWHERE, AND "WE CAN ONLY BE DISAPPOINTED BY THE ATTITUDES OF THOSE FROM WHOM WE EXPECTED ONLY GOOD."

F. MOROCCO CANNOT STAY ISOLATED BETWEEN TWO SEAS AND A SAHARA GOVERNED FOR 3 OR 4 WEEKS BY A PUPPET GOVERNMENT THAT WOULD QUICKLY GIVE WAY TO "ANOTHER POWER" WHICH WOULD ONLY BE THE CONFIDENTIAL

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INCARNATION OF NEO-IMPERIALISM OR COLONIALISM IN DISGUISE.

G. KING ALSO CALLED FOR MAXIMUM EFFORT IN INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOLUTION OF REAL INTERNAL PROBLEMS SO THAT COUNTRY WILL RECEIVE SERIOUS INTERNATIONAL CONSIDERATION AND DEVELOP MEANS TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH "THE POLICY IT HAS TO FOLLOW."

H. (EDITORIAL NOTE: KING SPOKE IN ARABIC AND WE HAVE BASED FOREGOING PRIMARILY ON ARABIC ORIGINAL; FRENCH TRANSLATION APPEARING IN TODAY'S PRESS LACKS SOME OF MORE PUNGENT NUANCES.)

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH AN "ANTI-COLONIAL" TONE IS TRADITIONAL AT ANNUAL COMMEMORATION OF MOHAMMED V'S DETENTION AND EXILE BY FRENCH, KING'S SPEECH, AFTER HIS WITHDRAWAL TO FEZ FOR REST AND REFLECTION, MUST BE VIEWED AS BOTH A MAJOR POLICY STATEMENT AND AS AN ESCALATION OF THE CONFLICT. PROBABLE REASONS ARE:

(1) APPROACHING ADVISORY OPINION OF ICJ AND REPORT OF UN FACT-FINDING MISSION WHICH, AS SOME OBSERVERS NOTE, MAY NOT BE CLEAR.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 RABAT 4058

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(2) REACTION TO INCREASING EVIDENCE, AS SEEN FROM MOROCCO,

OF SPANISH EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN SAHARAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS (MADRID 5803), VIEWED BY GOM AS EVIDENCE OF SPANISH-ALGERIAN COLLUSION.

(3) APPARENT CONVICTION ON PART OF GOM THAT SPANISH ARE NOT GOING TO NEGOTIATE BEFORE ICJ OPINION IS RENDERED AND THAT THE ALGERIANS ALSO SEEM CONTENT TO KEEP THEIR OPTIONS OPEN AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

(4) RESPONSE TO REPORTS OF RESTIVENESS AMONG MOROCCAN ARMY IN THE SOUTH. IT IS COMPOSED LARGELY OF VETERANS OF THE GOLAN HEIGHTS WHO HAD LITTLE HOME LEAVE AND ARE PARKED IN THE DESERT HEAT WITHOUT MUCH TO DO.

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(5) REPORTS FROM SPAIN INDICATING POSSIBLE STRENGTHENING OF RIGHTIST ELEMENTS, REGARDED AS HARDLINE COLONIALISTS.

(6) BELIEF THAT SHARPER TONE AGAINST SPAIN WILL MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR ALGERIA TO INTERVENE IN AN "ANTI-COLONIAL STRUGGLE" WHILE ALSO REINFORCING OR FORCING OTHER ARAB AND AFRICAN SUPPORT.

WHATEVER THE REASONS, THE KING HAS SAID LITTLE IN PUBLIC THAT HE HAS NOT ALREADY SAID IN PRIVATE EXCEPT THAT HIS REFERENCE TO "DONNING THE UNIFORM", EVEN THOUGH AS A LAST EVENTUALITY, CONJURES UP MORE THAN THE MERE SUBVERSION WHICH HE PREDICTED FOR SPAIN IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

NO DOUBT HE REMAINS FULLY AWARE OF SPANISH MILITARY SUPERIORITY, WHICH HE ACKNOWLEDGED TO DEPSECDEF BUT HE MAY NOW FEEL THAT INTERNAL SPANISH SITUATION HAS REACHED OR WILL SOON REACH POINT WHERE THE SPECTOR OF A COLONIAL WAR MAY BE SUFFICIENTLY ABHORENT TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT EFFECT. THIS MAY WELL BE MISREADING OF SPANISH REACTION.

WHILE THE KING GAVE ALL USUAL REFERENCE TO HIS DESIRE FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTION, SPEECH WAS EQUALLY HOSTILE TOWARD BOTH SPANISH (RE SETTING UP PUPPET GOVERNMENT) AND ALGERIANS (BROKEN PROMISES). IN FACT, WHILE HE STOPPED SHORT OF ALLEGING SPANISH-ALGERIAN COLLUSION, THE OPPOSITION PRESS HAS ALREADY PICKED UP THIS THEME. IN EQUATING MOROCCO'S SAHARA STRUGGLE WITH PALESTINE AND IN WARNING OF A NEO-COLONIALIST REGIME ON ARAB SOIL, HE IS SERVING NOTICE ON HIS ARAB BROTHERS THAT THIS IS AN ANTI-COLONIALIST ISSUE ON WHICH THE ARABS MUST BE UNITED.

A FURTHER COMPLICATING FACTOR COULD BE THAT, IN ORDER TO

MAKE HIS STANCE CREDIBLE, KING WILL HAVE TO INTRODUCE MORE
MILITARY HARDWARE IN THE SOUTH. AS KING HAS PROMISED
(AND HE HAS KEPT HIS PROMISE) NOT TO USE U.S. MATERIEL
AGAINST SPAIN (AND ISRAEL), THIS WOULD LOGICALLY LEAD TO
ESCALATION OF SOVIET DELIVERIES EITHER DIRECTLY, OR VIA
LIBYA. BENSOUDA'S RECENT RETURN VISIT THERE AND COLONEL
QADDAFI'S PROJECT VISIT TO RABAT COULD BE SEEN IN THAT LINE.
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